



This Old Column

October, 2001

Woodruff Place

IHPC is pleased to announce Woodruff Place as its newest Historic District. The Woodruff Place Historic Area Preservation Plan was adopted by the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission at their September 5, 2001 meeting. The district was accepted by the Metropolitan Development Commission on September 19, 2001. The district plan was developed with dedicated neighborhood volunteers working closely with the staff of the IHPC. This district was the first to utilize IHPC's "Preservation Plan Workbook." Woodruff Place is located between 10th Street and East Michigan Street on the north and south sides. The district borders Arsenal Technical High School on the west and the eastern edge of the alley which abuts the rear of the properties on the east side of Woodruff Place East Drive on the east. The area was laid out by James O. Woodruff in 1872-73.

The significance of Woodruff Place lies in its unique character as a planned residential suburb created within a park-like atmosphere. From the beginning, Woodruff Place possessed all the requisites of a park: three well-shaped boulevard drives bisected by grassy esplanades, spacious lots occupied by rambling frame homes and picturesque cottages, clusters of graceful cast-iron statuary crowding the esplanades, and finally, costly multi-tiered fountains located at judicious intervals along the three north-south drives. The preservation plan adopted for Woodruff Place includes the historical and architectural significance of the area, and delineates existing conditions, preservation objectives, recommendations, and design guidelines for the district. The Woodruff Place Historic Area Preservation Plan can be obtained in the IHPC office for a fee or on the internet at www.indygov.org/histpres.